

The Angel of Purgatory.

HOW MANY SWEET REMINISCENCES THIS TITLE
RECALLS TO A CHRISTIAN MIND.

THE ANGEL OF AGAR.

This unfortunate mother was wandering in the solitude of Bersabee. Both she and her son, Ismael, were in danger of dying from want of water. She laid the boy in the shade of a bush, and not having courage enough to see him die, went off a short distance. Here the unhappy woman moaned piteously, and cried out, "I shall not see my child die!" And, lo! an angel appeared to her who said, "Thy son is thirsty; behold a fountain of water!" The mother took the child, and gave him to drink; and soon he came to life again.

O weeping mothers, who have lost a beloved child, reflect well! This child of yours is burning perhaps with an excruciating thirst in the flames of purgatory. Listen, therefore, to the voice of his angel who, pointing out to you the eucharistic (sacramental) fountain, says exhortingly: "Draw from Holy Communion the living water that shall refresh the parching lips of your dear child."

THE ANGEL OF TOBIAS.

He was his guide on his journey, delivered him from the jaws of a horrid monster, and returning with him to his father's house, said to the old Tobias: "When, in the bitterness of your sorrow, you were pouring out your heart and your tears in the sight of the Lord, *when you were burying the dead*, and when tried and proved by the hand of the Most High, you did not cease praising and blessing His holy name: I saw you although you did not see me. I have gathered up all the tears that ran down your cheeks; I have counted all your alms deeds, your mortifications,

your prayers, and presented them to the Lord."

Is not this good Angel Raphael indeed the Angel of Purgatory? Does not his very language seem to tell us so? The following incident in the life of St. Frances of Rome will corroborate our statement: St. Frances was led in spirit by the Archangel Raphael into Purgatory, in order there to consider the diversity of the torments which the souls suffered, according to their culpability, and the nature of the faults they were to expiate. The Saint here saw him, in company with guardian-angels, go fourth from this place of sufferings towards heaven where he offered to the Lord the sacrifices, prayers, and good works, which the relatives and friends of these poor souls performed on earth for their consolation and relief. But if St. Raphael is especially charged with the deliverance of the souls in Purgatory, it can be said of him, to every freed soul, what young Tobias said to his father: "He has made you see the light of heaven."

THE ANGEL OF THE THREE YOUNG MEN IN THE FURNACE.

This angel kept from them the flames that encompassed them, changing the excessive heat into a sweet, refreshing breeze. The same does the Angel of Purgatory.

THE SHEPHERD'S ANGEL.

Should he not descend to the abyss of expiation to say to the waiting souls who sigh for the coming of the Messiah: "Behold, I come to announce to you tidings of great joy: A Savior is born to you. It is He, who alone can and will open heaven to you!"

ST. PETER'S ANGEL.

In a like manner the Angel of Purgatory breaks the chains and fetters